

b1
cont.

b) a plurality of closed loop members formed of fabric being mounted on said wristband for sliding movement and being slidably removable from the ends of said wristband for exchanging with the closed loop members of other ones of said wristbands; [and]

c) each of said plurality of closed loop members having a surface with first indicia thereon for exchanging with the closed loop members of other ones of said wristbands having second, third and fourth indicia thereon; and

d) said first indicia has a design selected from the group consisting of stars, stripes, hearts, flowers, insects and animals.

2 (Amended). A friendship bracelet in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said wristband further including an outer fabric material [is] being selected from the group consisting of cotton, rayon, nylon, silk, linen, polyester and combinations thereof.

3 (Amended). A friendship bracelet in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said [inner] stretchable elastic material is selected from the group consisting of elasticized plastics, rubber, plasticized rubber, elasticized fabric materials, and combinations thereof.

4 (Amended). A friendship bracelet in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said releasable closure means are selected from the group consisting of snaps, clasps, hook and loop fasteners, buckle and tine members, hook members, and buttons[, and equivalents thereof].

b2
9 (Amended). A friendship bracelet in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said first indicia has a color format selected from the group consisting of the colors [such as] red, blue, green, yellow, purple, and pink [and the like].

10 (Amended). A friendship bracelet in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said first indicia has indicia symbols selected from the group consisting of letters, initials, names, numbers, insignias, emblems, and corporate logos [and the like].

b3
12 (Amended). A method of using the friendship bracelet of Claim 1, wherein said friendship bracelet includes a wristband having slidably mounted thereon a plurality of closed loop members with first indicia thereon, wherein the first indicia has a design selected from the group consisting of stars, stripes, hearts, flowers, insects, and animals; and having releasable closure means for opening and closing the ends of said wristband; comprising the following steps:

a) opening said releasable closure means and slidably removing from the ends of said wristband one of said plurality of closed loop members having said first indicia thereon;

b) exchanging said removed one of said plurality of closed loop members with the closed loop member from another one of said friendship bracelets having second indicia thereon;

c) sliding the closed loop member from said another one of said friendship bracelets onto said wristband; and

b3
cont.

~~d) closing said closure means to retain said wristband~~
on the wrist of the wearer having closed loop members thereon with
said first and second indicia thereon.

13 (Amended). A friendship necklace for wearing on the neck,
comprising:

a) a neckband formed of [an outer fabric material and
an inner] a band of stretchable elastic material and including
releasable closure means for opening and closing said neckband;

b) a plurality of closed loop members formed of fabric
being mounted on said neckband for sliding movement and being
slidably removable from the ends of said neckband for exchanging
with the closed loop members of other ones of said neckbands; [and]

c) each of said plurality of closed loop members having
a surface with first indicia thereon for exchanging with the closed
loop members of other ones of said neckbands having second, third
and fourth indicia thereon; and

d) said first indicia has a design selected from the
group consisting of stars, stripes, hearts, flowers, insects and
animals.

b4

17 (Amended). A friendship necklace in accordance with Claim
13, wherein said releasable closure means are selected from the
group consisting of snaps, clasps, hook and loop fasteners, buckle
and tie members, hooking members, and buttons[, and equivalents
thereof].

63
~~22 (Amended). A friendship necklace in accordance with Claim 12, wherein said first indicia has a color format selected from the group consisting of the colors [such as] red, blue, green, yellow, purple, and pink [and the like].~~

~~23 (Amended). A friendship necklace in accordance with Claim 13, wherein said first indicia has indicia symbols selected from the group consisting of letters, initials, names, numbers, insignias, emblems, and corporate logos [and the like].~~

~~Please add Claims 25 and 26.~~

64
~~25. A friendship bracelet in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said first to fourth indicia on each of said closed loop members on said friendship bracelet are used for indicating friendships within a group or clique and to identify members of that friendship group of clique.~~

~~26. A friendship necklace in accordance with Claim 13, wherein said first to fourth indicia on each of said closed loop members on said friendship necklace are used for indicating friendships within a group or clique and to identify members of that friendship group or clique.~~

~~Please cancel Claims 8 and 21.~~

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1 through 24, as being unpatentable based upon Doppenschmitt '703 in view of Knodel '833 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully traversed.

The Doppenschmitt prior art patent does not consider the use and application of its beaded article of jewelry as a friendship

bracelet with exchangeable elements, as Doppenschmitt's beaded bracelet would not function as a friendship bracelet with exchangeable elements due to its different structure, wherein the beads are not removable.

The beaded article of jewelry as taught in Doppenschmitt cannot and will not perform the function of a friendship bracelet with exchangeable elements, as Doppenschmitt's beaded bracelet does not provide for exchangeable elements. Doppenschmitt has beads (not closed loop members) being made of gold, silver, or other metals or enameled materials, wherein these beads are not slidably removable from the tubular member of its bracelet. Additionally, Doppenschmitt's beads do not have any form of indicia thereof for identification purposes.

The novel bracelet combination disclosed and claimed in the present invention describes friendship bracelets with removable loop members having indicia thereon which are exchangeable with a friend's bracelet having loop members thereon with different indicia for indicating friendships within a group or clique and to identify members of that friendship group or clique. The bracelet and loop members as cited in the Claims of the present invention are needed in order to distinguish itself as a friendship bracelet having exchangeable loop members for wearing on the wrist of the user.

In the Doppenschmitt prior art patent, (as stated in their Claim 1), his invention describes a form-sustaining resilient beaded article of jewelry having a spring steel core, a tubular

covering of a flexible, close-mesh wire fabric enveloping the steel core, and a string of beads surrounding the tubular covering.

The rejection of Claims 1 to 24, based on Doppenschmitt in view of Knodel under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully traversed. The disclosure in Doppenschmitt does not teach or disclose the following elements of the amended independent Claim 1:

a) A wristband of stretchable elastic material and including releasable closure means for opening and closing said wristband. Doppenschmitt does not teach a wristband being made of a stretchable elastic material nor a releasable closure means for opening and closing of the wristband.

b) A plurality of closed loop members formed of fabric slidably removable from the ends of the wristband for exchanging with the closed loop members of other wristbands. Doppenschmitt does not teach a bracelet having a plurality of closed loop members (Doppenschmitt's bracelet has beads not closed loop members) that are slidably removable from its bracelet which are used for exchanging with another bracelet.

c) Each of the plurality of closed loop members have a surface with first indicia thereon for exchanging with the closed loop members of other wristbands having second, third and fourth indicia thereon. Doppenschmitt does not teach that each of its beads has some form of indicia thereon, such that its bead is used for exchanging with other bracelets. Further, as previously mentioned Doppenschmitt's beads cannot be slidably removed from its tubular wristband, thus the beads cannot be exchanged.

d) The first indicia has a design selected from the group consisting of stars, stripes, hearts, flowers, insects and animals. Doppenschmitt does not specifically teach that its plurality of beads has designs selected from the group consisting of stars, stripes, hearts, flowers, insects and animals.

The disclosure in Doppenschmitt does not teach or disclose the following steps of amended independent Claim 12:

a) The step of opening releasable closure means and slidably removing one of the plurality of closed loop members having the first indicia thereon. Doppenschmitt does not teach the step of opening a releasable closure means (Doppenschmitt's bracelet does not have releasable closure means) or the step of slidably removing one of its beads.

b) The step of exchanging a removed one of the plurality of closed loop members with the closed loop member from another one of the friendship bracelets having second indicia thereon. Doppenschmitt's bracelet does not have the ability to have one of its beads being exchanged for another bead from another bracelet.

c) The step of sliding the closed loop member from another one of the friendship bracelets onto the wristband. Doppenschmitt's bracelet does not have the ability to have a bead from another bracelet being received onto its bracelet.

d) The step of closing the closure means to retain the wristband on the wrist of the wearer having closed loop members

thereon with the first and second indicia thereon. Doppenschmitt's bracelet does not have closure means to retain the bracelet around the wrist of the wearer.

The disclosure in Doppenschmitt does not teach or disclose the following elements of amended independent Claim 13:

a) A necklace having releasable closure means for opening and closing the neckband. Doppenschmitt does not teach a necklace having a releasable closure means for opening and closing of the neckband.

b) A plurality of closed loop members slidably removable from the necklace for exchanging with the closed loop members of other necklaces. Doppenschmitt does not teach a necklace having a plurality of closed loop members (Doppenschmitt has beads not closed loop members) that are slidably removable from a necklace which are used for exchanging with another necklace.

c) Each of the plurality of closed loop members have a surface with first indicia thereon for exchanging with the closed loop members of other neckbands having second, third and fourth indicia thereon. Doppenschmitt does not teach that each of [the plurality of closed loop members] its beads has some form of indicia thereon, such that the bead is used for exchanging with other necklaces. Further, as previously mentioned, Doppenschmitt's beads cannot be slidably removed from its tubular neckband, thus the beads cannot be exchanged.

d) The first indicia has a design selected from the group consisting of stars, stripes, hearts, flowers, insects and animals.

Doppenschmitt does not specifically teach that its plurality of beads has designs selected from the group consisting of stars, stripes, hearts, flowers, insects and animals.

The Knodel prior art patent does not consider the use and application of its information reminding wristband as a friendship bracelet with exchangeable elements, as Knodel's reminder wristband would not function as a friendship bracelet with exchangeable elements due to its structure, configuration and design.

The reminder bracelet as taught in Knodel will not perform the function of a friendship bracelet with exchangeable closed loop members, as Knodel's reminder bracelet does not provide for closed loop members. Knodel has reminder tabs that are vertically mounted to the wristband, and these reminder tabs are not slidably removable from the wristband. The tabs 14 have a slit 20 connected to the bottom edge of the center opening 16, as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of Knodel's patent drawings, and the user has to distort the tab 14 in order to attach it or remove it from the wristband 10. Additionally, Knodel's tabs do not have indicia and certainly not in the form of stars, stripes, hearts, flowers, insects or animals being used for identification purposes as provided in the friendship bracelet of the present invention.

In the Knodel prior art patent, as stated in their Claim 1, his invention describes an information reminding device having a wristband and vertically mounted tabs on the wristband. The tabs

include indicia in message form as a reminder for an anniversary, a birthday, an interview, etc. being printed/written on either or both sides of the tab.

The rejection of Claims 1 to 24, in view of Knodel under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully traversed. The disclosure in Knodel does not teach or disclose the following elements of the amended independent Claim 1:

a) A plurality of closed loop members slidably removable from the wristband for exchanging with the closed loop members of other wristbands. Knodel does not teach a bracelet having a plurality of closed loop members (Knodel's bracelet has vertically mounted tabs not closed loop members that lie flat on the wristband) removable from its bracelet which are used for exchanging with another bracelet.

b) Each of the plurality of closed loop members have a surface with first indicia thereon for exchanging with the closed loop members of other wristbands having second, third and fourth indicia thereon. Knodel does not teach that each of [the plurality of closed loop members] its tabs has some form of identification indicia thereon, such that its tab is used for exchanging with other bracelets. Further, as previously mentioned, Knodel's tabs cannot be slidably removed from its wristband.

c) The first indicia has a design selected from the group consisting of stars, stripes, hearts, flowers, insects and animals. Knodel does not specifically teach that its plurality of tabs had designs selected from the group consisting of stars, stripes,

hearts, flowers, insects and animals that are being used for identification purposes in exchanging with another bracket, whereas the closed loop members of the present invention are used in exchanging with another bracket.

The disclosure in Knodel does not teach or disclose the following steps of amended independent Claim 12:

a) The step of exchanging a removed one of the plurality of closed loop members with the closed loop member from another one of the friendship bracelets having second indicia thereon. Knodel's bracelet would not be used to have one of its tabs being exchanged for another tab from another bracelet of the same type from even a friend, as the reminder tab would have no significance as to friendship within a group, but only as a reminder, for example, of the friend's birthday.

b) The step of sliding the closed loop members from another one of the friendship bracelets onto the wristband. Knodel's bracelet does not have the ability to have its tab from another similar bracelet being slidably received onto its wristband.

The disclosure in Knodel does not teach or disclose the following elements of the amended independent Claim 13:

a) A friendship necklace for wearing on the neck. Knodel does not teach a friendship necklace, as Knodel's invention is a reminder wristband and not a reminder necklace for wearing on the neck.